

LORRAINE HAW makes the following declaration:

1. This declaration is submitted in support of Petitioners' Application for Special Relief.
2. I am Lorraine Haw, better known as Ms. Dee Dee.
3. I lost both my brother and my son – my brother to gun violence and my son to prison.
4. My son has been incarcerated over 25 years. He was 18 years old and 3 months when he was incarcerated.
5. My brother was killed when he was 25 years old. The man who killed him will spend the rest of his life in jail.
6. If you had asked me when it had happened, I would have said 'Execute him. Fry him.' When your hurt is so fresh, you don't think. You're going by emotions. But you see, after all these years, I realized, you know, he's somebody's son. He's somebody's brother. He made a mistake like all of us do.
7. Me feeling hatred is not going to bring my brother back. Him spending the rest of his natural life in jail is not going to bring my brother back. When I think of my brother, I think of that young man. When I think of my son, I think of that young man. I fight for his freedom as hard and as much as I fight for my son's.
8. I am a member of Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration (CADBI), a campaign fighting to end life without parole, or death by incarceration as we call it,

in Pennsylvania. I am also a member of Free the Ballot, which works to make criminal justice reform an issue in elections, and of FAMM – Families Against Mandatory Minimums.

9. Everyone deserves a second chance. I refuse to write off anyone as beyond saving, beyond hope, beyond change. Even the worst of the worst deserves a second chance. If we can learn to forgive, we can have a way better world for the next generation that comes in. Let's rehabilitate people. Let's help people. Let's transform people. Stop locking them up like animals.

10. I ended up in the criminal justice system, too. In the 1980s and 90s I was addicted to drugs, and I committed crimes to support that habit. I got clean, and served my sentences. I deserve forgiveness, too. I am applying for a pardon from the Governor. What if someone claims to be "directly hurt" by my crime and demands a hearing to testify against my pardon? All these years later?

11. I stand for the rights of victims. But I don't think that they should take the place of the rights of the accused.

12. The Marsy's Law amendment goes too far. Some of it is good – like considering the safety of victims and their families at bail hearings. But mostly it wants to take things away from people accused of crimes before they are even convicted. Those people have already lost so much and you want to take away the few rights they do have?

13. I have just one vote, but I want it to go toward justice, not toward vengeance. I want to be able to vote for real victims' rights – but not to have to vote against the accused.

14. It hurts to lose someone. We have lost too many of our loved ones already, to violence, to jail. We need to find another way.

15. Marsy's Law is not the way.

These statements are all true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I make these statements subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C. S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Executed this 9th day of October 2019.


